The Junior Collier Award Program is a collaborative effort by the NAHF, The National Air and Space Museum (NASM), and the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) to invite students to develop a concept/idea inspired by a Collier-winning technology. The challenge will involve education and community organizations whose focus is on traditionally underserved and under-resourced communities.

Since 1911, The Robert J. Collier Trophy has been awarded in acknowledgement of the “Greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics in America, with respect to improving the performance, efficiency, and safety of air or space vehicles, the value of which has been thoroughly demonstrated by actual use during the preceding year.” Given each year by the NAA, it has been won by some of the greatest individuals and companies in aviation history. Many of these technologies are on display at the NASM and several of the people who have been enshrined in the NAHF have earned the Collier Award.

The Junior Collier Award will begin as a regional effort, with the eventual goal of expanding annually to a national audience, in conjunction with the Collier Trophy winner. The Junior Collier Challenge will be focused on developing a concept/idea inspired by the Collier winning technology. The challenge will focus on original thought and design, versus fabrication and build out. The projects will not be limited by the technology of the trophy winner, rather the goal will be for students to be inspired by the technology. Each year a NASM leader, NAA Awardee, and/or NAHF Enshrinee shall announce and otherwise promote the Junior Collier Challenge.

A Junior Collier trophy will be presented to each winner and the official Junior Collier Trophy, with the names of the winners permanently attached, will be displayed along with the actual Collier Trophy in the NASM.

Our Partner-The National Air and Space Museum the Smithsonian was established for the “increase and diffusion of knowledge” and has established museums, research centers and programs dedicated to the understanding and preservation of humanity’s cultural heritage, the encouragement of contemporary cultural creativity, and the understanding and sustaining of the planet’s biodiversity. The NASM mission is to Commemorate, Educate, and Inspire. We commemorate the amazing stories of aviation and space exploration by studying and sharing all of their facets, whether recognizing remarkable achievements and discoveries or delving into difficult and troubling history. We educate a global 21st century audience using our one-of-a-kind collection, and deep and broad knowledge, to ground and elevate learning that will help develop the innovators and workforce that will build our future. The display of the Collier Trophy is an illustration of how NASM recognizes and emphasizes the ongoing achievements and discoveries in aviation.

Our Partner- The National Aeronautic Association the National Aeronautic Association. Originally formed in 1905 as the Aero Club of America, NAA has the responsibility to determine each year’s recipient of many of aviation’s greatest awards including the Robert J. Collier Trophy, which is on loan and displayed at NASM. NAA is also responsible for certifying National aviation records and is the US representative of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, which certifies world records and determines recipients of international aviation and aerospace awards. NAA is dedicated to the promotion of the art, sport and science of aviation in the United States.